

Stop the press, not likely

An invitation to 'stop the press', is an inviting one for a writing and editorial team with day jobs, young children and generally hectic lives—but of course our dedication to the Natta's readers is stronger than any such temptation—and besides there is important news, that you need to hear.

Perhaps the biggest news of last Thursday night was the awarding of a fancy badge to Barbara Beveridge. As Parramatta's latest Competent Communicator, Barbara will never again be lost for something with which to impress people at parties, never again be lost for a witticism, never again be lost for words full-stop. Many congratulations Barbara on completing your tenth speech (in an impressively short period), and may we get to see your twentieth.

Some of the evenings further highlights included a few presentations noteworthy for their intergenerational component—Robyn Pecks inspirational on Justin Bieber, and Gen-Y's Kirisha Thalapanasuntheram imparting the wisdom not displayed by many Gen-X's in a very impressive evaluation.

There was also a little pat on the back for the Natta, by Ron Marriot, in a toast that recognised the contributors to the Natta, present and past.

The evenings speaking programme saw a line-up weighted towards the novices including two ice-breakers. Christine Pizzuti delivered a solid history of herself, showing us how steady and confident a novice can be. Amanda Myburgh followed with a truly brave retelling of a troubling event. It's not often we get something so revealing in our meetings, but when they come they really pack a punch. Congratulations Amanda on bringing this story to the club, and we all look forward to seeing your speaking develop in the coming months.

Linda Clark also gave us a very personal story, Barbara gave us some instruction on achieving true and lasting happiness, then came Elizabeth Wilson. Elizabeth delivered a typically powerhouse story, that took hold of the crowd in the first few lines, and elicited both tears and laughter at just the points Elizabeth wanted—it's wonderful that we have the opportunity to learn from such an accomplished speaker as Elizabeth.

Perhaps the last performance that needs to be mentioned here was Lyndal's evaluation. Lyndal will soon be competing at District level for Evaluation—here evaluation last Thursday night was delivered under contest conditions, and it's obvious judging by her performance that she will be a strong contender at the competition.

The award for the evening went to Lyndal as the premier Evaluator, Dave with the number one Table Topic, Elizabeth Wilson with the winning Speech—and serial Ron Marriot with possibly his 1000th Wooden Spoon.

DONT FORGET!

- Meeting Procedure Workshop—9 June, contact Lyndal at marshmallow48@hotmail.com
- District Changeover dinner—23rd June, contact Wendy Nielson at vpm@parramattatm.org.au

Natta Photos (mostly) by *Suben Subenthiran*



How do you like that competence? - Our newest Competent Communicator

Big shoes filled

Last Thursday night saw the elections for Parramatta's new executive team, the team that will lead the club through the next Toastmaster year. The election was expertly handled by Immediate Past District President Ian Chick, and the result was an exciting one.

The positions were uncontested with a single nomination for each—except for the coveted position of Vice President of Public Relations. Barbara Beveridge pre-nominated for this coveted role, and was announced by Ian, however when Ian put out the call for any further nominations, up stood Nirish Shakya. Nirish stood before his fellow members and gave a convincing and heartfelt argument for why he should have been voted for the role. It was an impressive impromptu delivery—but lost the day to Barbara's 'behind the scenes' campaigning.

The full complement of next years executive is as follows:

President—Sam Ekinici
Vice President Education—Linda Snalam
Vice President Membership—Lyndal Eager
Vice President Public Relations—Barbara Beveridge
Secretary—Suben Subenthiran
Treasurer—Suzanne Berkeley
Sergeant At Arms—Christine Pizzuti

The club is in fine hands for the 2011-2012 Toastmaster year, and we all look forward to watching this team in action.

Meeting Details

Parramatta Toastmasters meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at the Parramatta RSL
6pm for a 6:30pm start
Dinner is available during the meeting
Guests and visitors are always welcome

Enquiries / Correspondence

Email: info@parramattatm.org.au